

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

ISSUED BY THE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

18 JULY 1963
~~TOP SECRET~~

1. Pakistan

a. Ayub's government is pressing the US for a curtailment of arms aid to India or for compensatory benefits for Pakistan.

b. Foreign Minister Bhutto told Ambassador McConaughy Monday that what he described as mounting public resentment against the West is forcing Pakistan toward a more "independent" policy. This is nonsense; Ayub's government is not that subject to public opinion and in this case is not above creating it.

c. Both Ayub and Bhutto are publicly stressing the need for closer relations with the Chinese. Among moves said to be under study is a defense or nonaggression pact with Peiping.

d. Pakistani officials are also making a show of determination to go through with the civil air agreement despite formidable practical difficulties.

e. We continue to think, however, that Pakistan's dependence on US aid--and the absence of a feasible alternative--will eventually bring Ayub up short.

2. Syria

a. This morning, shortly after a Syrian delegation left Damascus for discussions with Nasir in Alexandria regarding Syrian-Egyptian unity, fighting broke out in downtown Damascus.

b. A Syrian army force attacked army headquarters, Radio Damascus, and other government buildings, which were defended by other army forces. The radio went off the air about noon after declaring a curfew.

d. We have not yet been able to establish which of the many possible factions rose against the regime, but a late broadcast from Radio Damascus by Chief of Staff General Hafiz asserts that the mutiny has been crushed.

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NOTES

- A. Laos Souvanna's office announced today the Pathet Lao had launched a "general attack" against neutralist positions in the Plaine des Jarres utilizing North Vietnamese troops. If true, this might be an effort to deny use of the neutralist-held airstrip. In recent weeks, there have been a number of vague indications that the Communists could be building up to something, but so far we have no official confirmation that this announcement is not yet another false alarm.
- B. USSR-India [redacted] Khrushchev took an optimistic line on the test ban talks, but contended world opinion must continue to press for an agreement and a nonaggression pact. [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted] He wants to meet Nehru for discussion of world problems.
- C. Morocco The arrest of leftist National Union of Popular Forces leaders Tuesday evening on charges of "plotting to create agitation" is designed to guarantee a victory for the royalist party in municipal elections on 28 July. In the longer run it will increase the isolation of King Hassan and his coterie.

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(Cont'd)

E. USSR-Cuba

[redacted] Khrushchev will not visit Cuba until 1964.
[redacted] he will come on 1 January in connection with the fifth anniversary of the Cuban revolution.

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F. South Vietnam No major developments were reported yesterday.

G. Yemen What appears to be a program to surface evidence of Cairo's use of gas warfare in Yemen is in progress

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H. Portuguese Guinea Portuguese Defense Minister General Manuel Gomes has admitted that rebel guerrilla forces control the southern portion of the colony. The rebels claim they will be able to take over the entire colony if they receive the aid promised by the African heads of state at Addis Ababa earlier this year.

DOCUMENT OF INTEREST

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